

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel Claims 1-8 and add new Claims 9-25 as follows:

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1.-8. (cancelled)

9. (new) A vehicle air conditioner arranged in a vehicle having an engine and having interior equipment including an instrument panel, a steering wheel, and a seat comprising,

air outlets placed on a surface of the interior equipment in order to lower a temperature of the interior equipment surface by airflow from the air outlets, the air outlets including seat surface air outlets from which airflow is directed to said steering wheel and said seat.

a control unit having control means that performs preliminary air-conditioning to start airflow from said air outlets in order to lower said interior equipment surface temperature before a driver's ride, after detecting a preliminary air conditioning start signal, wherein the control means starts at least airflow from said seat surface air outlets.

10. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 9, wherein said control means further comprises a timer that stops said preliminary air conditioning when a predetermined time is over.

11. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 9, wherein said control means further comprises a timer that starts after detecting said preliminary air conditioning start signal and stops when either one of the following events (a), (b) and (c) occurs,

- (a) a predetermined time is over,
- (b) a driver enters the vehicle,
- (c) the engine starts.

12. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 9, wherein air-conditioning is switched from said preliminary air-conditioning to regular air conditioning when a driver enters the vehicle or the engine starts.

13. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 9, wherein regular air-conditioning is successively operated after said preliminary air-conditioning and airflow of the preliminary air-conditioning changes to airflow of the regular air-conditioning when a driver enters the vehicle or the engine starts.

14. (new) A vehicle air conditioner arranged in a vehicle having an engine and having interior equipment including an instrument panel, a steering wheel, and a seat comprising,

first air outlets placed on a surface of the interior equipment in order to lower a temperature of the interior equipment surface by airflow from the first air outlets, and second air outlets from which airflow is directed to the interior equipment surface to

lower the interior equipment surface temperature, the first and second air outlets including,

instrument panel-top air outlets from which airflow is directed to a windshield,

instrument panel-front air outlets from which airflow is directed to the steering wheel, and

seat air outlets placed on a surface of the seat,

a control unit having control means that performs preliminary air-conditioning to start airflow from said first and second air outlets in order to lower the temperature of said interior equipment surface before a driver's ride, after detecting a preliminary air conditioning start signal, wherein the control means starts;

airflow from said instrument panel-top air outlets,

airflow from said instrument panel-front air outlets, and

airflow from said seat air outlets.

15. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 14, wherein said control means further comprises a timer that stops said preliminary air conditioning when a predetermined time is over.

16. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 14, wherein said control means further comprises a timer that starts after detecting said preliminary air conditioning start signal and stops when either one of the following events (a), (b) and (c) occurs,

(a) a predetermined time is over,

- (b) a driver enters the vehicle,
- (c) the engine starts.

17. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 14, wherein air-conditioning is switched from said preliminary air-conditioning to regular air-conditioning when a driver enters the vehicle or the engine starts.

18. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 14, wherein regular air-conditioning is successively operated after said preliminary air-conditioning and airflow of the preliminary air-conditioning changes to airflow of the regular air-conditioning when a driver enters the vehicle or the engine starts.

19. (new) A vehicle air conditioner arranged in a vehicle having an engine and having interior equipment including an instrument panel, a steering wheel, and a seat comprising,

first air outlets placed on a surface of the interior equipment in order to lower a temperature of the interior equipment surface by airflow from the first air outlets and second air outlets from which airflow is directed to an interior equipment surface to lower the temperature of the interior equipment surface, the first and second air outlets including,

instrument panel-top air outlets from which airflow is directed to a windshield,

instrument panel-front air outlets from which airflow is directed to the steering wheel and the seat, and

ceiling board outlets from which airflow is directed to the instrument panel, the steering wheel, the seat and a window,

seat air outlets placed in a surface of said seat, and

door air outlets from which airflow is directed to said window,

a control until having control means that performs preliminary air-conditioning to start airflow from said first and second air outlets in order to lower the said interior equipment surface temperature before a driver's ride, after detecting a preliminary air conditioning start signal, wherein the control means starts;

airflow from said instrument panel-top air outlets,

airflow from said instrument panel-front air outlets,

airflow from said seat air outlets,

airflow from ceiling board outlets, and

airflow from door air outlets.

20. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 19, wherein said first and second outlets further include back seat air outlets arranged in a front of a back seat, from which airflow is directed to a back seat and said control means generates airflow from the back seat air outlets.

21. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 19, wherein said airflow from said seat air outlets comprises airflow from front seat air outlets and airflow from back seat

air outlets, wherein the airflow from the front seat air outlets is directed to said steering wheel to lower the temperature of the steering wheel and airflow from the back seat air outlets is directed behind a backrest of the front seat to lower the temperature of the backrest of the front seat.

22. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 19, wherein said control means further comprises a timer that stops said preliminary air conditioning when a predetermined time is over.

23. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 19, wherein said control means further comprises a timer that starts after detecting said preliminary air conditioning start signal and stops when either one of the following events (a), (b) and (c) occurs,

- (a) a predetermined time is over,
- (b) a driver enters the vehicle,
- (c) the engine starts.

24. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 19, wherein air-conditioning is switched from said preliminary air-conditioning to regular air-conditioning when a driver enters the vehicle or the engine starts.

25. (new) A vehicle air conditioner of Claim 19, wherein regular air-conditioning is successively operated after said preliminary air-conditioning and airflow

of the preliminary air-conditioning changes to airflow of the regular air-conditioning when a driver enters the vehicle or the engine starts.